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cancer

Any disorder of cell growth that results in invasion and destruction of surrounding healthy abnormal cells. Cancer cells arise from normal cells whose nature is permanently changed. multiply more rapidly than healthy body cells and do not seem subject to normal control by hormones. They may spread via the bloodstream or lymphatic system to other parts of body, where they produce further tissue damage (metastases). Malignant tumour is another for cancer. A cancer that arises in epithelium is called a **carcinoma**; one that arises in connective tissue is called a **sarcoma**. Leukaemia is cancer of white blood cells; lymphoma is cancer of lymphoid tissue; and myeloma is cancer of plasma cells of the bone marrow. Causative agents (carcinogens) include various chemicals (including those in tobacco smoke), ionizing radiation, silica and asbestos particles, and oncogenic viruses. Hereditary factors and stress may also play a role.

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